

CLAIMS

I claim:

- 1 1. A leaf guard for directing water into a gutter while
2 preventing debris from entering the gutter, comprising:
3 an elongated sheet of material having:
4 a substantially planar portion, a roof-side
5 edge and one or more rows of elongated slits
6 defined in said planar portion;
7 wherein each of said rows of elongated slits is
8 substantially parallel to said roof-side edge;
9 and wherein each of said elongated slits is oriented
10 substantially perpendicular to said roof-side edge.

1 2. The leaf guard according to claim 1, wherein said
2 one or more rows of elongated slits include at least
3 two adjacent rows of elongated slits.

1 3. The leaf guard according to claim 2, wherein of said
2 at least two adjacent rows of elongated slits are
3 offset from each other.

1 4. The leaf guard according to claim 1, wherein each of
2 said elongated slits is bounded by a first side of
3 material and an opposite second side of material,
4 wherein said first side of material slopes upward and
5 said second side of material slopes downward.

1 5. The leaf guard according to claim 4, wherein each of
2 said elongated slits of the same row have first and
3 second sides of material that slope in the same
4 direction.

1 6. The leaf guard according to claim 1, wherein said
2 elongated sheet of material is constructed of a metal
3 selected from the group consisting of aluminum, steel,
4 copper and enamel coated aluminum.

1 7. The leaf guard according to claim 1, wherein each of
2 said elongated slits is between 1/2 inch and 2 inches
3 in length.

1 8. The leaf guard according to claim 1, wherein said
2 elongated sheet of material further includes a curved

3 nose portion that curves inwardly beneath said
4 substantially planar portion.

1 9. The leaf guard according to claim 8, wherein said
2 elongated sheet of material further includes a trough
3 portion extending first downwardly and outwardly from
4 said curved nose portion and then upwardly and
5 outwardly to form a trough beneath said curved nose
6 portion, said trough portion having a base with a
7 plurality of elongated slots through which water can
8 flow.

1 10. The leaf guard according to claim 9, wherein said
2 elongated sheet of material further includes an outer
3 lip portion extending outwardly from said trough
4 portion, said outer lip portion having a plurality of
5 apertures through which a threaded portion of a screw
6 can pass to secure said outer lip to the outside rim of
7 a gutter.

1 11. The leaf guard according to claim 8, wherein said
2 curved nose section is adapted to hang above the
3 outside rim of a gutter such that a gap of between
4 about 1/4 inch and about 1/2 inch is formed between

5 said curved nose section and said outside rim of the
6 gutter.

1 12. The leaf guard according to claim 1, wherein a
2 portion of said substantially planar portion is
3 securable to a roof by being positioned between the
4 substructure of the roof and the shingles of the roof.

1 13. The leaf guard according to claim 1, wherein said
2 elongated sheet of material further includes a inwardly
3 bent connection portion adjacent said roof-side edge,
4 wherein said inwardly bent connection portion is
5 adapted for attachment to a vertical support structure.

1 14. The leaf guard according to claim 1, wherein each of
2 said elongated slits is separated from each immediately
3 adjacent elongated slit by a distance of between about
4 1/4 inch and about 1 inch.

1 15. A leaf guard for directing water into a gutter while
2 preventing debris from entering the gutter, comprising:

an elongated sheet of material having:

4 a substantially planar portion;

5 a roof-side edge;

6 one or more rows of elongated slits
7 defined in said planar portion, wherein said
8 elongated slits are oriented substantially
9 perpendicular to said roof-side edge;

10 an inwardly bent connection portion
11 adapted adjacent the roof-side edge, wherein
12 said inwardly bent connection portion is
13 adapted for attachment to a vertical support
14 structure;

15 a curved nose portion opposite said
16 inwardly bent connection portion, said curved
17 nose portion extending, in an arc, downwardly
18 and underneath said planar portion.

1 16. The leaf guard according to claim 15, wherein said
2 one or more rows of elongated slits include at least
3 two rows of elongated slits and wherein each of said
4 rows of elongated slits are substantially parallel to
5 said roof-side.

1 17. The leaf guard according to claim 16, wherein each
2 of said elongated slits is bounded by a first side of
3 material and an opposite second side of material,
4 wherein said first side of material slopes upward and
5 said second side of material slopes downward, and
6 wherein each of said elongated slits of the same row
7 have first and second sides of material that slope in
8 the same direction.

1 18. A leaf guard for directing water into a gutter while
2 preventing debris from entering the gutter, comprising:

3 an elongated sheet of material having:

4 a substantially planar portion, a
5 portion of said substantially planar portion
6 being securable to a roof by being positioned
7 between the substructure of the roof and the
8 shingles of the roof;

9 a roof-side edge;

10 one or more rows of elongated slits
11 defined in said planar portion, wherein said
12 elongated slits are oriented substantially
perpendicular to said roof-side edge;

14 an curved nose portion extending, in an
15 arc, first downwardly and outwardly from said
16 substantially planar portion and then
17 inwardly beneath said substantially planar
18 portion;

19 a trough portion extending first
20 downwardly and outwardly from said curved
21 nose portion and then upwardly and outwardly
22 to form a trough beneath said curved nose
23 portion, said trough portion having a base
24 with a plurality of elongated slots through
25 which water can flow; and

26 an outer lip portion extending outwardly
27 from said trough portion and having a
28 plurality of apertures through which the
29 threaded portion of a screw can pass to
30 secure said outer lip to the outside rim of a
31 gutter.

1 19. A leaf guard according to claim 18, wherein said
2 elongated sheet of material is bendable such that an
3 angle between said substantially planar portion
4 relative to said trough portion can be changed by a
5 person's fingers applying pressure thereto.

1 20. The leaf guard for gutters according to claim 18,
2 wherein said elongated slots in said trough portion are
3 about 5 inches long.